

PUBLIC HEARING
June 25, 2001

PUBLIC HEARINGS were held on Monday, June 25, 2001, at 6:31 p.m. in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, to solicit public comment, written or oral, on the adoption of Bill No. **01-13**, an Ordinance providing appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, for Berkeley County; to provide for levy of taxes on all taxable property in Berkeley County for all county purposes; to provide for the expenditures of said taxes and other revenues coming into the county for the fiscal year.

Present: Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, Councilmember District No. 2, Vice Chairman, presiding; Mr. Milton Farley, Councilmember District No. 1; Mr. William E. Crosby, Councilmember District No. 3; Mr. Charles E. Davis, Councilmember District No. 4; Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, Councilmember District No. 5; Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Councilmember District No. 6; Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr. Councilmember District No. 7; Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., Councilmember District No. 8; and Mr. D. Mark Stokes, County Attorney.

The requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been complied with by posting of the time, date, place and agenda of this Public Hearing of Berkeley County Council at the entrance of the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, published in THE BERKELEY INDEPENDENT, THE GOOSE CREEK GAZETTE, and THE HANAHAN NEWS on May 30, 2001, as evidenced by attached copy of Affidavits of Publication, and a copy of such notice was mailed to all Councilmembers and the News media.

Chairman Spooner called the meeting to order and stated this Public Hearing was to solicit public comment, written or oral, on the adoption of Bill No. 01-13, an Ordinance providing appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, for Berkeley County; to provide for levy of taxes on all taxable property in Berkeley County for all county purposes; to provide for the expenditures of said taxes and other revenues coming into the county for the fiscal year.

Chairman Spooner asked if there were any public comments?

Mr. William Wilcox of 116 West Street, Moncks Corner, stated that Council would once again vote on a budget without having a Budget Workshop. He stated that as he read today's paper he saw articles of various Local Governments holding Budget Workshops. Why was there no mention of Berkeley County holding a workshop when it seemed a majority of Council had questions? Why do some members meet without including the rest? Do they as a Council feel that workshops are only necessary if there is a major change in revenues or tax increases? Could the reason be no workshop was held because it would be on record under the scrutiny of the media and the public? He stated Council had voted on the proposed budget twice without even having a look at it. Is this an example of responsible government? One should assume that workshops bring questions and ideas to the table allowing everyone an opportunity to be informed and represent the interest of its

constituents. Mr. Wilcox stated he hopes that Council would exercise good physical judgment and not rubberstamp this budget but answer questions that have been circling around the community. For example, why did the County have a spending freeze? Why was a shortfall predicted at \$500,000 and inflated to \$4,000,000? Why does some County departments come back every year to beg for anything extra other than small changes in the budgets? How much interest are taxpayers paying each year on the Mt. Holly Industrial Park without paying any principal? Why are things missing in the budget, such as C-Funds, Bond money from the State and others? Why did the County negotiate a land deal for an individual, then bought the land back at an inflated price? How many Industrial Parks do we need with the economy slowing? This budget cannot or would not be one person's budget; this budget would belongs to every Councilmember who votes for it. He stated, "I know that we as taxpayers will hold you responsible. With the State budget cuts and the slowing economy we should be looking at every dollar we spend."

There being no further comments, the Chairman declared the Public Hearing ended at 6:34 p.m.

S/Barbara B. Austin
Clerk to County Council

July 23, 2001
Date Approved

AGENDA FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing to solicit public comment, written or oral, will be held on Monday June 25, 2001, at 6:30 p. m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard following other public hearings, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, S. C. on the adoption of Bill No. 01-13, An Ordinance providing appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, for Berkeley County; to provide for levy of taxes on all taxable property in Berkeley County for all county purposes; to provide for the expenditures of said taxes and other revenues coming into the county for the fiscal year.

CALL TO ORDER

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF HEARING

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

June 20, 2001
S/Barbara B. Austin
Clerk of County Council